

Does today's release of this 445 referral compromise the President's rights or place him at a legal disadvantage? The answer is a clear "no."

The President and his lawyers will have plenty of time to craft a full defense. (Indeed, if there is any person in this Nation who has the tools and the ability to defend himself—it is the President of the United States.) That is his right. That represents basic fairness.

It is important to realize that the process that this resolution creates will provide the Independent Counsel's Report to this House, the President, and the public at essentially the same time. How can this not be fair?

CONCLUSION

It is my sincere belief that this process will prove that our Constitution works. Today, that process begins and will only end in an impeachment if substantial and credible evidence exists for that impeachment. Today's action is NOT meant to prejudge the outcome. We must uphold the laws of our free society—our republic will be secure.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, in this Nation, and in this Congress, we are confronted with a serious constitutional crisis.

In everyone's interest, Judge Starr's report should be released to the public without delay. For months we have listened to rumors and leaks. In order for the credibility of this Congress to remain intact, we must be armed with truth and the facts. The American people must share this confidence, and the only way to accomplish this, is for the information contained in Judge Starr's report to be made public. After all this time and the related costs, full disclosure is absolutely necessary.

As a Member of Congress, I will fulfill my duty and obligation to review this matter in a tradition of bipartisan cooperation already reiterated by the Speaker and Mr. GEPHARDT. Congress will execute its duty under the Constitution, but more importantly, continue to work on a legislative agenda which assures Americans that our Nation's economy will remain strong by virtue of a Balanced Budget and tax cuts. We will also continue our work to increase educational opportunities for our children, preserve and protect Social Security and Medicare, and reform health care in America.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 363, nays 63, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 425]

YEAS—363

Abercrombie	Ehrlich	Lazio
Aderholt	Emerson	Leach
Allen	English	Levin
Andrews	Ensign	Lewis (CA)
Archer	Eshoo	Lewis (KY)
Armey	Etheridge	Linder
Bachus	Evans	Lipinski
Baessler	Everett	Livingston
Baker	Ewing	LoBiondo
Baldacci	Farr	Lowey
Ballenger	Fawell	Lucas
Barr	Fazio	Luther
Barrett (NE)	Foley	Maloney (CT)
Barrett (WI)	Forbes	Maloney (NY)
Bartlett	Fossella	Manton
Barton	Fowler	Manzullo
Bass	Fox	Mascara
Bateman	Franks (NJ)	Matsui
Bentsen	Frelinghuysen	McCarthy (MO)
Bereuter	Frost	McCarthy (NY)
Berman	Gallegly	McCollum
Berry	Ganske	McCrery
Bilbray	Gejdenson	McDade
Bilirakis	Gekas	McGovern
Bishop	Gephardt	McHale
Blagojevich	Gibbons	McHugh
Bliley	Gilchrest	McInnis
Blumenauer	Gillmor	McIntosh
Blunt	Gilman	McIntyre
Boehlert	Gingrich	McKeon
Boehner	Goode	McKinney
Bonilla	Goodlatte	McNulty
Bonior	Goodling	Menendez
Bono	Gordon	Metcalfe
Borski	Goss	Mica
Boswell	Graham	Millender-McDonald
Boucher	Granger	Miller (FL)
Boyd	Green	Minge
Brady (TX)	Greenwood	Mink
Brown (OH)	Gutierrez	Moakley
Bryant	Gutknecht	Moran (KS)
Bunning	Hall (OH)	Morella
Burr	Hall (TX)	Murtha
Burton	Hamilton	Myrick
Buyer	Hansen	Nethercutt
Callahan	Harman	Neumann
Calvert	Hastert	Ney
Camp	Hastings (WA)	Northup
Campbell	Hayworth	Norwood
Canady	Hefley	Nussle
Cannon	Herger	Oberstar
Capps	Hill	Obey
Cardin	Hilleary	Olver
Castle	Hinojosa	Ortiz
Chabot	Hobson	Oxley
Chambliss	Hoekstra	Packard
Chenoweth	Holden	Pallone
Christensen	Hooey	Pappas
Clement	Horn	Parker
Coble	Hostettler	Pascarell
Coburn	Houghton	Pastor
Collins	Hoyer	Paul
Combest	Hulshof	Paxon
Condit	Hunter	Pease
Cook	Hutchinson	Peterson (MN)
Cooksey	Hyde	Peterson (PA)
Costello	Inglis	Petri
Cox	Istook	Pickering
Coyne	John	Pickett
Cramer	Johnson (CT)	Pitts
Crane	Johnson (WI)	Pombo
Crapo	Johnson, Sam	Porter
Cubin	Jones	Portman
Cunningham	Kanjorski	Price (NC)
Danner	Kaptur	Quinn
Davis (FL)	Kasich	Radanovich
Davis (VA)	Kelly	Rahall
Deal	Kennelly	Ramstad
DeFazio	Kildee	Rangel
DeGette	Kim	Redmond
DeLauro	Kind (WI)	Regula
DeLay	King (NY)	Reyes
Diaz-Balart	Kingston	Riggs
Dickey	Klecza	Riley
Dicks	Klink	Rivers
Dingell	Klug	Rodriguez
Dixon	Knollenberg	Roemer
Doggett	Kolbe	Rogan
Dooley	Kucinich	Rogers
Doolittle	LaFalce	Rohrabacher
Doyle	LaHood	Ros-Lehtinen
Dreier	Lampson	Rothman
Duncan	Lantos	Roukema
Dunn	Largent	Royce
Edwards	Latham	
Ehlers	LaTourette	

Ryun	Smith (TX)
Salmon	Smith, Adam
Sanchez	Smith, Linda
Sanders	Snowbarger
Sandlin	Snyder
Sanford	Solomon
Sawyer	Souder
Saxton	Spence
Schaefer, Dan	Spratt
Schaffer, Bob	Stabenow
Schumer	Stearns
Sensenbrenner	Stenholm
Sessions	Strickland
Shadegg	Stump
Shaw	Stupak
Shays	Sununu
Sherman	Talent
Shimkus	Tanner
Shuster	Tauscher
Sisisky	Tauzin
Skeen	Taylor (MS)
Skelton	Taylor (NC)
Slaughter	Thomas
Smith (MI)	Thornberry
Smith (NJ)	Thune
Smith (OR)	Thurman

NAYS—63

Ackerman	Hinchey	Owens
Becerra	Jackson (IL)	Payne
Brady (PA)	Jackson-Lee	Pelosi
Brown (CA)	(TX)	Roybal-Allard
Brown (FL)	Jefferson	Rush
Carson	Kennedy (MA)	Sabo
Clay	Kennedy (RI)	Scott
Clayton	Kilpatrick	Serrano
Clyburn	Lee	Skaggs
Conyers	Lewis (GA)	Stark
Cummings	Lofgren	Stokes
Davis (IL)	Markey	Thompson
Delahunt	Martinez	Torres
Deutsch	McDermott	Towns
Engel	Meehan	Velazquez
Fattah	Meek (FL)	Waters
Filner	Meeks (NY)	Watt (NC)
Ford	Miller (CA)	Wexler
Frank (MA)	Mollohan	Woolsey
Hastings (FL)	Moran (VA)	Yates
Hefner	Nadler	
Hilliard	Neal	

NOT VOTING—9

Barcia	Jenkins	Pryce (OH)
Furse	Johnson, E. B.	Scarborough
Gonzalez	Poshard	Young (AK)

□ 1200

Mr. FORD changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. HINOJOSA and Mr. RODRIGUEZ changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise at this time because, like the other four Members who represent Americans in the offshore territories, I was not able to vote on the issue of the rule, H. Res. 525. But, Mr. Speaker, I believe in fairness and I believe that sensitive material should be kept confidential.

The people in the territories, just like those on the mainland, believe in fairness and we believe in respect for the Office of the President. And, so, if I had been able to vote, I would have cast my vote against the resolution; I would have voted no.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members